

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Attn.: Mail Stop Issue Fee
Yukio NAKAGAWA et al. : Patent Art Unit: 1734
Serial No.: 10/779,662 : Examiner: James D. Sells
Filed: February 18, 2004 : *Allowed: July 5, 2007*
For: SYSTEM FOR MOUNTING PRODUCTS :
TO A TAPE :

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.104(e)

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Sells for the Notice of Allowability. However, Applicants believe that the Statement of Reasons for Allowance is not completely commensurate with the scope of independent claim 21. In other words, Applicants believe that the description in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance may lead to a possible misinterpretation of independent claim 21 in the present application. Thus, Applicants wish to make the following comments of record.

The Statement of Reasons for Allowance asserts “the prior art does not teach or make obvious the concept of a bag transport mechanism that is configured to transport the bag discharged from the packaging apparatus toward the mounting mechanism, the bag transport mechanism configured to grasp the bag and maintain the bag in a horizontal orientation while the bag is being transported toward the mounting mechanism.” Applicants agree with this statement in that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the bag transport mechanism as stated. However, Applicants respectfully note that the Statement of Reasons for Allowance is commensurate only with the scope of independent claim 1, but not independent claim 21. More specifically, independent claim 21 does not require maintaining the bag in a horizontal orientation as in independent claim 1, but rather claim 21 recites maintaining the inclination of the bag in the horizontal plane while the bag is being transported toward the mounting mechanism.

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Accordingly, to the extent that the Statement for Reasons of Allowance may imply that claim 21 is interpreted as requiring maintaining the bag in a horizontal orientation as in independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully object to this possible interpretation.

Entry of these comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 24, 2007

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